



European Union Education Resources

This collection of education resources looks at the historic formation of the EU as well as current issues, such as the Eurozone Crisis, and the challenges ahead for an expanded union.

Background

- [The United States of Europe--Winston Churchill](#)
 - Summary: This 1946 speech by Great Britain's prime minister urges the creation of a united Europe, especially a partnership between France and Germany, and warns against extreme nationalism.
 - Common Core: Have students analyze an excerpt of the speech, noting key sentences, purpose, audience, and use of rhetoric. Strengthens reading informational text for language arts and history/social studies. RI.4, 5, 6, 9. RH.5.
- [Powerpoint Presentation Overview of EU](#)
 - Summary: A collection of informational slides from the official website of the European Union. Slides cover history of the EU, current goals and activities, and how the EU functions.
- [Diversity in the EU, a Statistical Look at Life in Member Countries](#)
 - Summary: A compilation of graphs and statistics from the official EU website explaining quality of life in various EU countries.
- [Diversity in the EU, a Statistical Look at Economies of Member Countries](#)
 - Summary: A compilation of graphs and statistics from the official European Union website explaining aspects of the EU economy. Topics include unemployment rates, energy sources, and research budgets.
 - Common Core: A great way to add quantitative and technical analysis skills to understanding informational texts. Especially relevant to standards RH.7 and WHST.2.

A Closer Look

- [Ultrationalism on the Rise in EU Countries](#)

- Summary: This short video from the Pulitzer Center discusses the rise of xenophobia and ultranationalism among EU countries such as Greece and Hungary, and the consequences for the EU if these trends continue.
- [Turkey May Never Join Bloc](#)
 - Summary: This blog post from *New York Times* writer Dan Bilefsky discusses the tension between Turkey and the EU about potential membership.
 - Common Core: Strengthen student understanding of key ideas and details in informational texts. Have students determine the main points of contention surrounding Turkey’s EU membership according to the article, and discuss the strength of arguments for and against membership.
- [The Euro Crisis Song](#)
 - Summary: This music video by the *Guardian* and Studio 20 NYU describes the Euro crisis through song.
- [Eurozone Crisis Explained](#)
 - Summary: This flowchart from BBC News uses graphics to explain how the European crisis unfolded—and the choice countries now face between austerity measures and stimulus spending.
- [EU Budget for 2013](#)
 - Summary: This infographic from the BBC shows the breakdown of funds for the EU 2013 budget and the contribution amounts from member countries.

The Future

- [Interactive Guide to EU Enlargement](#)
 - Summary: This interactive infographic from *The Guardian* depicts current members of the EU, applicant countries, and countries opposed to membership.
- [Should the EU Stick Together?](#)
 - Summary: In this *New York Times* Room for Debate topic, debaters explore the options for the future of the European Union—should the EU be a solely monetary union, a political bloc, or an institution of the past?
 - Common Core: Have students choose two articles and determine the authors’ central ideas. Summarize arguments, contrast viewpoints, find strong points and weaknesses. Strengthens reading history standards relating to: key ideas and details, craft and structure. RH.2, RH.3, RH.6. Or strengthen speaking and listening skills by engaging in a classroom debate.

Lesson Plans

One-Week Lessons

- [NATO and EU Enlargement: Challenges for the New Europe](#)

- Summary: Students learn about the history and purpose of the EU through a combination of lectures and independent and group projects. At the end of the unit, students simulate an EU summit.
- Common Core: Build speaking and listening skills. Group activities strengthen comprehension and collaboration skills while summit activity strengthens presentation skills. SL. 1-6.